Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for directing a user on a network to a server, comprising the steps of:

sending to the user a client side program that reads [[the]] a local time of the user;

receiving from the user a request and the local time of the user, wherein the client side program effectuated the sending of the local time of the user;

determining from the local time of the user [[the]] a topological location of the user on the network;

determining from the topological location of the user [[the]] an identity of the server that is capable of fulfilling the user's request and that is topologically nearest to the user; and

directing the user to the identified server,

wherein [[the]] a time required to satisfy the request of the user is optimized.

2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the request of the user comprises any one of:

a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol request;

a File Transfer Protocol request; and

a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol request.

3. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein the client side program comprises any one of:

      a Java applet;

      a Java scriptlet;

      a Java script; and

      an Active X control.

4. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein the receiving step comprises the step of: receiving from the user a request and the local time of the user in response to the activation of the client side program by the user.

5. **(Original)** The method of claim 4, wherein the activation of the client side program by the user comprises the user clicking on a link.

6. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein the first determining step comprises the step of:

      determining the topological location of the user on the network, wherein the determining takes the following factors into account:

          the local time of the user;

          [[the]] a geographical location of the user; and

          [[the]] a topology of the network of the user.

7. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the first determining step further comprises the step of:

      employing a server side program for the determining step, wherein the server side program comprises any one of:

            a Common Gateway Interface script;

            a Java servlet;

            a Hyper Text Preprocessor script; and

            a Perl script.

8. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 2, wherein the second determining step comprises the step of:

      determining the identity of the server that is capable of fulfilling the user's request and that is topologically nearest to the user, wherein the determining takes the following factors into account:

            the topological location of the user on the network;

            the topological location of other servers on the network;

            the capability of other servers on the network to fulfill the user's request;

            [[the]] a strength of the connection between the user and other servers on the network; and

            [[the]] a processing load of the other servers on the network.

9. **(Original)** The method of claim 8, wherein the second determining step further comprises:

employing a server side program for the determining step, wherein the server side program comprises any one of:

a Common Gateway Interface script;

a Java servlet;

a Hyper Text Preprocessor script; and

a Perl script.

10. **(Original)** The method of claim 2, wherein the directing step comprises the step of:

forwarding the request of the user to the identified server.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method for directing a user on a network to a server, comprising the steps of:

receiving from the user a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) request for web content;

sending to the user, in response to the HTTP request, web content comprising a client side program, wherein the client side program reads [[the]] a local time of the user and embeds the local time of the user into a link;

receiving from the user, in response to the user clicking on the link, an HTTP request for a web page, wherein the HTTP request includes the local time of the user;

determining from the local time of the user, using a server side program, [[the]] a topological location of the user on the network;

determining from the topological location of the user, using a server side program, [[the]] an identity of the server that is capable of fulfilling the user's request and that is topologically nearest to the user; and

forwarding the request of the user to the identified server,
wherein [[the]] a time required to satisfy the request of the user is optimized.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 11, wherein the client side program comprises any one of:

> a Java applet;
>
> a Java scriptlet;
>
> a Java script; and
>
> an Active X control.

13. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 11, wherein the first determining step comprises the step of:

> determining, using a server side program, the topological location of the user on the network, wherein the determining takes the following factors into account:
>
> the local time of the user;
>
> [[the]] a geographical location of the user; and
>
> [[the]] a topology of the network of the user.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein the first determining step further comprises the step of:

> employing a server side program for the determining step, wherein the server side program comprises any one of:
>
> > a Common Gateway Interface script;
> >
> > a Java servlet;
> >
> > a Hyper Text Preprocessor script; and
> >
> > a Perl script.

15. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 11, wherein the second determining step comprises the step of:

 determining, using a server side program, the identity of the server that is capable of fulfilling the user's request and that is topologically nearest to the user, wherein the determining takes the following factors into account:

 the topological location of the user on the network;

 the topological location of other servers on the network;

 the capability of other servers on the network to fulfill the user's request;

 [[the]] a strength of the connection between the user and other servers on the network; and

 [[the]] a processing load of the other servers on the network.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 15, wherein the second determining step further comprises:

 employing a server side program for the determining step, wherein the server side program comprises any one of:

 a Common Gateway Interface script;

 a Java servlet;

 a Hyper Text Preprocessor script; and

 a Perl script.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A computer system for directing a user on a network to a
server, comprising:

a client side program that reads [[the]] a local time of [[the]] a client and embeds
the local time of the user in a link;

a web server for sending web content to a user in response to a request of the user,
wherein the web content sent to the user comprises the client side program; and

a server side program for receiving a request from the user, wherein the request is
initiated by activation of the client side program and wherein the request includes the
local time of the user, wherein the server side program determines from the local time of
the user [[the]] an identity of the server that is best capable of fulfilling the user's request.

18. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 17, wherein the client side program
comprises any one of:

a Java applet;

a Java scriptlet;

a Java script; and

an Active X control.

19. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 17, wherein the server side program
comprises any one of:

a Common Gateway Interface script;

a Java servlet;

a Hyper Text Preprocessor script; and

a Perl script.

20. **(Original)** The computer system of claim 17, wherein the request of the user comprises any one of:

    a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol request;

    a File Transfer Protocol request; and

    a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol request.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A computer readable medium including computer instructions for directing a user on a network to a server, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

    sending to the user a client side program that reads the local time of the user and embeds the local time of the user in a link;

    receiving from the user a request and the local time of the user, wherein the client side program effectuated the sending of the local time of the user;

    determining from the local time of the user [[the]] a topological location of the user on the network;

    determining from the topological location of the user [[the]] an identity of the server that is capable of fulfilling the user's request and that is topologically nearest to the user; and

    directing the user to the identified server,

    wherein [[the]] a time required to satisfy the request of the user is optimized.

22. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 21, wherein the request of the user comprises any one of:

    a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol request;

    a File Transfer Protocol request; and

    a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol request.

23. **(Original)** The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the client side program comprises any one of:

    a Java applet;

    a Java scriptlet;

    a Java script; and

    an Active X control.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the first determining means comprises:

    determining the topological location of the user on the network, wherein the determining takes the following factors into account:

        the local time of the user;

        [[the]] a geographical location of the user; and

        [[the]] a topology of the network of the user.

25. **(Currently Amended)** The computer readable medium of claim 22, wherein the second determining means comprises:

    determining the identity of the server that is capable of fulfilling the user's request and that is topologically nearest to the user, wherein the determining takes the following factors into account:

        the topological location of the user on the network;

        the topological location of other servers on the network;

        the capability of other servers on the network to fulfill the user's request;

        [[the]] a strength of the connection between the user and other servers on the network; and

        [[the]] a processing load of the other servers on the network.